THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) In public comments made after his visit to India on 23-24 August 2002, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage stated that the situation was better than it was in May 2002, but that incidents of violence were on the upswing and the incursions across line of control had increased from the end of June though were still below the seasonal annual highs.

(b) Government has noted that U.S. officials have, on a number of occasions, recognised that cross-border infiltration from Pakistan is continuing. Government's decisions are based on its own assessment of the situation on the ground. It is Government's position that a complete cessation of cross-border terrorism from Pakistan is essential for easing tensions between India and Pakistan.

Impact of American Pressure on Pakistani Terrorist Activities

950. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in a recent public statement, the Prime Minister is reported to have said that the American pressure on Pakistan to control and stop terrorist activities against India was not working any more;

(b) if so, the context in which it was made;

(c) whether the same view-point was officially conveyed to President Bush during the Prime Minister's visit to the States in mid-September;

(d) if so, U.S. Government's reaction thereto and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what alternative policy Government propose to pursue to eliminate the cross-border terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes.The Prime Minister's observations were made in the context of clear evidence that cross-border infiltration and terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir continue to take place despite the commitments made by President Musharraf to the international community, including theUnited States, on ending cross-border infiltration and terrorism in India.

(c) Yes.

(d) The U.S. Government conveyed that it will continue to press for fulfilment of the commitments it had independently sought and received from President Musharraf.

(e) Government's purposive international engagement has led to the international recognition of Pakistan's links with, and its Government's responsibility to, stop terrorism in India. Government will continue to take all necessary and appropriate measures to build on the success it has achieved in the past year to defeat cross-border terrorism in India.

Extradition of Criminals Hiding in Pakistan

951. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have handed over two separate lists of criminals charged with terrorist activities, who are hiding in Pakistan with the request that they may be extradited to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including their numbers and names etc.;

(c) whether Pakistan has started complying with our request;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what further action has been/is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) On 31 st December 2001, Government handed over to Pakistan a consolidated list of 20 fugitives from law, known to be residing in Pakistan with the request that they be apprehended and handed over to India. It was pointed out to Pakistan, that 15 of the criminals in the list already had interpol Red Corner notices issued against them which also provided Pakistan sufficient basis to take action against them.

(c) and (d) Pakistan has not responded positively to this request. The President of Pakistan, in his 12th January 2002 address to the nation stated that there was no question of the Pakistani authorities handing over any Pakistan national to India. As regards the presence of non-